The JPO was closed in 2002 on completion of the field investigations except some confirmatory geo-physical tests required on the Nepal bank at Rupaligad (alternative) site for re-regulating structure.

Some contentious issues, like (i) apportionment of cost between power and irrigation and between India and Nepal; (ii) installation capacity and unit size and assessment of power benefits; and (iii) water availability downstream of Pancheshwar, etc. are also pending for final decision with Government of Nepal. No discussions could be held with Nepal since December, 2004 due to internal situation in Nepal.

Low level of ground water

†4288. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of such districts where ground water has reached at a dangerously low level is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the related schemes and their achievements, State-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the ground water situation is very bad in the national capital; and

(e) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), 839 units (Blocks/ Mandals/Talukas) have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units as 'Critical' and 550 as 'Semi-critical'.

(d) and (e) As per report of CGWB, seven out of nine districts of NCT Delhi are over-exploited. The measures taken for management and development of ground water resources in NCT Delhi include the following:—

- Notification of South and South-West districts of NCT Delhi by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for regulation of ground water development and management. Digging of new groundwater abstraction structures in these areas without prior permission of CGWA, is prohibited.
- Implementation of demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge projects during Ninth Plan in various parts of the city.
- Organization of Mass Awareness and Water Management Training Programmes.
- Development of tubewells/exploratory wells.

Recommendation of Second ARC about control over rivers and groundwater

4289. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.